

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6972**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1273

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 29, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 29, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Compensation for Emergency or Disaster Training.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Tincher

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill provides immunity to districts and responders for injury, death, or property damage during a training event conducted in preparation for: (1) a homeland security emergency; (2) a federal, state, or local disaster; or (3) civilian and infrastructure protection and support.

The bill provides that the medical treatment and burial expense provisions of the Worker's Compensation and Occupational Disease Law apply to responders during training events.

The bill provides for a \$150,000 death benefit to the survivors of a responder who dies as the direct result of personal injury or illness resulting from an action that the responder was obligated or authorized to perform during a training event.

The bill provides for reimbursement for equipment damage or loss, services provided, and other expenses incurred by a district during a training event. It establishes the Responder Assistance Fund for the purpose of paying compensation and reimbursements for training events to responders and districts.

The bill annually appropriates from the state General Fund an amount sufficient to maintain the fund balance at \$1 million.

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2007 (retroactive).

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill establishes the nonreverting Responder Assistance Fund to reimburse and compensate districts and responders when no federal, state, or local agency is otherwise liable to pay the compensation or reimbursement. The fund is also used to pay any responder worker's compensation claims from a training event. The fund would be a self-insurer and would depend on

the claims made on the fund.

The bill provides a \$150,000 death benefit for the survivors of a responder. The impact would depend on the number of responders who die as the direct result of personal injury or illness resulting from an action that the responder was obligated or authorized to perform during a training event.

The bill appropriates annually from the state General Fund the amount necessary to maintain a \$1 M balance in the Responder Assistance Fund. The impact the first year would be \$1 M. The impact after the first year would depend on expenditures from the fund.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Homeland Security.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.